

TOP SECRET RUFF

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Attachment to

10 April 1969

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REFERENCE TO:

STATUS OF ASWAN HIGH DAM
EGYPT

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1. SIGNIFICANCE: CONSTRUCTION ON THE ASWAN HIGH DAM NEARS COMPLETION.
2. LOCATION: 7.2 NM SOUTH OF ASWAN AND 375 NM SSE OF CAIRO AT 23-58N 032-52E.
3. REMARKS: THE ASWAN HIGH DAM AND HYDRO POWERPLANT IS THE CENTRAL FEATURE OF EGYPT'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND THE PIVOTAL FACTOR IN HER PLANS TO COPE WITH A RAPIDLY INCREASING POPULATION.
4. COLLATERAL: ENGINEERING PLANS FOR THE DAM WERE DRAFTED IN 1952 BY AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF EXPERTS FROM GREECE, ITALY, GERMANY, AND EGYPT. ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY TO BE FINANCED BY U.S. AND BRITISH AID, THE SOVIET UNION UNDERTOOK THE JOB IN 1958. SINCE CONSTRUCTION BEGAN IN 1960, AN ESTIMATED \$575 MILLION HAS

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GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
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BEEN SPENT ON THE DAM AND ITS POWER FACILITIES AND NETWORKS, INCLUDING ABOUT \$260 MILLION DRAWN AGAINST TWO USSR CREDITS TOTALING \$325 MILLION. REMAINING COSTS ARE ESTIMATED TO BE \$172 MILLION. THE SOVIETS AGREED TO PROVIDE ALL CURRENCY NEEDS IN THE FORM OF MACHINERY, EXPERTS, AND SALARIES. IN PHYSICAL TERMS THIS HAS AMOUNTED TO AS MANY AS 2,000 SOVIET ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS.

WHEN COMPLETE, THE ROCKFILL, GRAVITY-TYPE DAM WILL BE TWO AND ONE-HALF MILES LONG, ONE-HALF MILE WIDE, 1,100 YARDS THICK AT THE BASE, AND A MAXIMUM OF 365 FEET HIGH. IT WILL CREATE A RESERVOIR, LAKE NASSER, WITH A CAPACITY OF 130 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF WATER (70 MILLION CU. M. FOR LIVE STORAGE, 30 MILLION CU. M. FOR RESERVE FOR LOW FLOOD YEARS, AND 30 MILLION CU. M. FOR SILT ACCUMULATION).

THE WATER RETAINED WILL ENABLE EGYPT TO GREATLY DIMINISH HER PERENNIAL PROBLEM OF FLOOD CONTROL

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AND IRRIGATION BY NOT ONLY MAINTAINING A
CONSTANT YEAR-ROUND FLOW OF WATER THROUGH
THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM BUT ALSO BY RETAINING
ENOUGH ADDITIONAL WATER TO COMPENSATE FOR
LOW FLOW YEARS.
MORE IMPORTANTLY FOR EGYPT'S FUTURE DEVELOP-
MENT, THE HIGH DAM WILL RETAIN IN AGGREGATE
OVER THE YEARS ENOUGH WATER TO INCREASE HER
CULTIVATED LAND BY 30 PERCENT AND WILL ENABLE
HER TO MORE THAN DOUBLE HER ELECTRIC POWER
RESOURCES. THE POWER STATION WILL HOUSE
TWELVE 175,000 KW GENERATORS AND WILL FEED A
NETWORK OF POWERLINES 1,750 MILES IN LENGTH.
A 500-MILE, SINGLE-CIRCUIT 500-KV LINE FIRST
CARRIED POWER FROM THE DAM TO CAIRO IN NOV 67.
INDUSTRY HAS BENEFITTED MOST FROM THIS INCREASED
POWER OUTPUT, CONSUMING OVER 80 PERCENT OF THE
AVAILABLE ELECTRICITY IN 1967. THE LARGEST
CONSUMERS OF ELECTRICITY ARE CHEMICAL FERTILIZER
PLANTS NEAR ASWAN AND SUEZ AND PETROLEUM REFINERY

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OPERATIONS AT SUEZ, TOGETHER ABSORBING NEARLY
50 PERCENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL TOTAL. PLANS ARE
UNDERWAY TO MAKE ASWAN A LARGE INDUSTRIAL
COMPLEX.

SECURITY FOR THIS VITAL INDUSTRIAL PROJECT IS
MAINTAINED BY AN EXTENSIVE SA-2 SAM COMPLEX,
AA SITES, AND AN EARLY WARNING RADAR SYSTEM
(NOT SHOWN ON GRAPHIC).

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ENLARGEMENT FACTOR: 5X

10 X (INSET)

IEG/WGD

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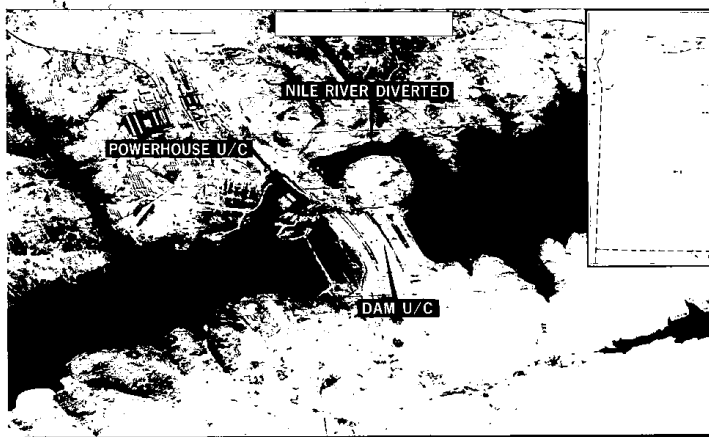
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**STATUS OF
ASWAN HIGH DAM, EGYPT
23-58N 032-52E**

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